

for His benefits and to request His protection and favor. I recommend to the people of the United States a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer to show the many favors of the Almighty and especially the opportunity for this form of government."

So as this Nation, Mr. Speaker, seems to move toward a secular country, we would do well to remember the purpose of Thanksgiving and the words of the Good Book, which says: "Unless the Lord watches over the city, those that guard the walls do so in vain."

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRATS DESIRE TO BETTER SECURE THE HOMELAND

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, no issue that Congress deals with is more important than our national security. As Democrats prepare to take control of the Congress this January, we are ready to move forward with an agenda that I believe will better secure our homeland and help us finally to restore our credibility abroad.

Today our Nation is actually less safe than it was before the 9/11 terrorist attacks. According to our most professional experienced intelligence analysts, the number of terrorists attacks and recruits are up worldwide. Many of our enemies are stronger. Their reach is greater. Their weapons of mass destruction are more developed, plentiful and available.

Democrats have an agenda for real security at home and overseas. It is time that we require the Iraqis to take responsibility for their country, and to begin the phased redeployment of U.S. forces out of Iraq. At the same time, we Democrats believe that we need to double the size of Special Forces to destroy Osama bin Laden and terrorists networks like al-Qaeda, we need to rebuild a state-of-the-art military capable of projecting power wherever necessary. That is an agenda that will better protect our Nation and is worthy of strong bipartisan support.

THE THREAT OF IRAN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a growing threat to the United States and global security: Iran's nuclear ambitions pose a grave threat, not only to world stability but also to our close ally, Israel, the only stable democracy in the Middle East, and American interests of peace and prosperity throughout the region.

Just yesterday the Associated Press confirmed that Iran has continued its experiments to enrich uranium in defiance of the U.N. Security Council.

Led by a tyrannical dictator who denies the existence of the Holocaust and vows to wipe Israel off the map, the

President of Iran is out of touch with reality and poses an immediate security threat to its neighbors and the progress of democracy in the Middle East.

We must stand firm and united in our resolve to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear state. President Ahmadinejad seems bent on the destruction of Western civilization. He says Iran will never give up its right to enrich uranium and produce nuclear fuel. The consequences of a nuclear Iran would be catastrophic and must be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, our commitment to our allies and for peace in the Middle East must not be shaken by Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions. I urge my colleagues to work together to stand in unity against this gathering threat.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, the minimum wage, as you know, has not been raised in the last 9 years and is currently at its lowest level in the last 50 years when adjusted for inflation. Yet Republicans have continually refused to raise the pay of these full-time workers who struggle to make ends meet.

During the last 6 years, by the way, 5 million people now live in poverty. Last week the American people spoke out for the Democratic majority in Congress, because they agreed that no one in the Nation who works hard should be denied a livable wage. In fact, over 70 percent of Latinos work at minimum wage to support their children.

These are hardworking Americans, and they deserve better treatment and fairness. Now the American people have spoken and call for immediate action to raise the minimum wage. Within the first 100 hours of the Congress, Democrats will pass a pay increase for those workers who need it the most. It is only fair. How can we as a Nation justify giving millionaires tens of thousands of dollars in tax breaks while we continue to force more than 6 million Americans to live with just \$5.15 an hour?

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the election results, we will see a much-needed raise in the minimum wage for all Americans.

A LITTLE SCHOOL WITH A BIG HEART

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday in Saluda, South Carolina, 400 elementary school students gathered at a football field while a military helicopter landed in the middle.

Why such a big treat for such a small school, you may wonder? Hollywood

Elementary teacher Anna Frye learned of the Flags For Soldiers Project, headed by Alpha Troop Commander Captain Jason D. Hennigan, and wanted to involve her students.

The project is to raise money to purchase 500 American flags, one for each soldier serving in a Cavalry Squadron of the 82nd Airborne Division. During the past several weeks, these students donated their snack money and paid a fee to participate in dress-up days so they could contribute to this cause.

Captain Hennigan's father, Daniel Hennigan, a retired Army officer, was so touched by the school's gesture that he arranged a special celebration on Veterans Day. As American soldiers continue to fight for our freedoms around the world, we can all learn a lesson from the students at Hollywood Elementary.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

AMERICAN PEOPLE SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voted for change here in Washington. They were not happy with the party controlling both Capitol Hill and the White House. They want checks and balances, but more than anything, they want us to work together to address the concerns they face every day.

The agenda that Democrats laid out over the last year is an agenda that all of us here in Washington should be able to support. If you want to help millions of hardworking Americans who have not received a pay raise in 9 years, you will join us in increasing the minimum raise in January. If you want to help more teenagers get a college education, you will join us in making it more affordable by cutting interest rates in half on college loans.

This is the agenda that the American people supported last week when they went to the polls. In January, we will begin to implement this agenda, and I hope that our Republican colleagues will join us in this effort.

COLLEGE LOAN INTEREST RATE CUTS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, Americans voted for a new direction in America. Among those voting were 10 million young Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 who were no doubt upset by the soaring costs of college tuition and the rise in student loan interest rates put into effect by Republicans in this body.

This year alone Republicans raised student loan interest rates by 7 percent and cut \$12 billion out of the higher

education budget to pay for the massive tax cuts for the wealthy. These 10 million young voters, along with their parents and grandparents who share the growing financial burden of higher education, elected a Democratic majority in Congress because they know our party has continually stood for making a college education an affordable goal for all American students.

Mr. Speaker, these families will soon see results. Within the first 100 hours of taking office next January, Democrats will broaden college opportunities for all students.

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AMERICANS WANT A CHANGE IN STRATEGY IN IRAQ

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voiced their strong opposition to the handling of the war in Iraq. On the day after the election, it appeared that President Bush had finally gotten the message when he removed Secretary Rumsfeld, the man who bears a great deal of responsibility for the failed Iraq policy. However, there is now some doubt whether the President fully comprehended the magnitude of the quagmire his administration created and continues to defend.

The situation in Iraq is getting worse, not better. October was the deadliest month for American troops in over 2 years, and they continue to play referee in a civil war between the Sunnis and the Shiites.

It is clear after last week's election that the American people want a change in strategy. It is time for the Iraqi people to take control of their country and to stop the sectarian violence that has made it impossible to bring stability to that nation. American troops cannot do it for them. They have got to do it for themselves.

Therefore, it is time to begin redeploying our troops out of Iraq so that we can better protect our Nation. The President's own intelligence agencies say the war in Iraq is making us less safe.

When Democrats take control of Congress next year, we will advocate for a phased redeployment so we can better protect the homeland from terrorist attacks.

DEMOCRATS WILL HIT THE ROAD RUNNING WITH AN AGENDA FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when Democrats take over the House in January, we are going to hit the road running, moving forward on an agenda that every American should be able to embrace.

Within the first 100 hours, Democrats pledge to bring legislation to the House floor that would increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour to more than 6 million American workers.

We will also give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the ability to negotiate lower drug prices, something that the Republican drug law specifically prohibited.

We will also repeal billions in tax breaks for big oil companies, companies that experienced record profits this summer while they were gouging the American consumer.

Democrats also plan to help college students with skyrocketing college costs by cutting their student loan interest payments in half, something that could save future graduates about \$5,000 over the lifetime of the loan.

All of this, plus fully implementing the 9/11 Commission's recommendations, and we will do that all in the first 100 hours.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

FRANNIE, WYOMING, LAND CONVEYANCE

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 101) to convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 101

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO THE TOWN OF FRANNIE, WYOMING.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey by quitclaim deed, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (b) to the town of Frannie, Wyoming.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is the parcel of land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation—

(1) consisting of approximately 37,500 square feet;

(2) located in the town of Frannie, Wyoming; and

(3) more particularly described in the approved Plat of Survey of Frannie Townsite, Wyoming, as the North ½ of Block 26, T. 58 N., R. 97 W.

(c) RESERVATION OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the reservation by the United States of any oil and gas rights.

(d) REVOCATIONS.—

(1) SPECIAL USE PERMIT.—The special use permit issued by the Commissioner of Reclamation, numbered O-LM-60-L1413, and dated April 20, 1990, is revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (b).

(2) SECRETARIAL ORDERS.—The following Secretarial Orders issued by the Commissioner of Reclamation are revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (b):

(A) The Secretarial Order for the withdrawal of land for the Shoshone Reclamation Project dated October 21, 1913, as amended.

(B) The Secretarial Order for the withdrawal of land for the Frannie Townsite Reservation dated April 19, 1920.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 101, introduced by Senator MIKE ENZI, and supported by our Wyoming colleague, BARBARA CUBIN, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of land to the town of Frannie, Wyoming. The land in question is less than 1 acre and equates to approximately half a city block.

The Bureau of Reclamation has not used this land for many years, and the town has actually managed it for the last 15 years. As the land is no longer needed for reclamation projects, the town would like to use this land to build a community center.

The Department of the Interior has testified in support of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of S. 101 is to convey a small parcel of Federal land to the town of Frannie, Wyoming.

While we do not object to passage of S. 101, we do want to ensure that we address concerns raised at the December 7, 2005, hearing of the Subcommittee on Water and Power regarding the intent of Congress with respect to the ownership of this parcel and the purpose for which it will be used.

Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD at this point two letters received from the town of Frannie by Water and Power Subcommittee Ranking Member GRACE NAPOLITANO.

TOWN OF FRANNIE,

Frannie, WY, December 15, 2005.

Hon. GRACE NAPOLITANO,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE NAPOLITANO: It has come to our attention that there were concerns expressed over the Town of Frannie gaining ownership of federal lands in Frannie Wyoming and then immediately disposing of them. As a smaller governmental entity, we fully understand the concerns on this issue.

One of the unique features in the Town of Frannie is on the NE¼ of Block 26. The Town